



# THE COMPTROLLER'S CORNER

## Why Test-Based Certification?

**T**est-based, professional certification is one aspect of our Air Force guidelines for professional development that was issued last May. Certification, along with appropriate education and on-the-job experience, are indicators of strong financial management skills.

If you want to achieve professional certification, you have several options depending on your career goals. The Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam may be appropriate. There are also certification exams for cost estimators. The Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) exam covers state as well as federal financial management. Finally, a new exam, the Defense Financial Management Certification (DFMC) examination, is currently being developed by the American Society of Military Comptrollers in cooperation with the Department of Defense (DoD). The DFMC, which will focus only on defense financial management, will be available next spring.

While potentially rewarding, test-based certification does require time-consuming study. Also, under DoD policy the cost of the exam must be borne by the individual. So why should you consider professional certification?

One reason is your own desire to achieve. Test-based certification provides objective proof that you have mastered the important and complex rules of financial management. Certification may also help you get a job after you complete your Defense career. More contractors may ask that their key employees be certified. Certification should also help you advance within the Air Force. If you acquire a relevant, test-based professional certification, we will inform your supervisor and ask that your achievement be taken into account in promotion and other decisions.

Several articles in this issue of the magazine deal with test-based certification, with a focus on the Defense Financial Management Certification Exam. To help our employees with their overall financial management proficiency and also to prepare for this exam, the DoD will be running financial training courses next spring and summer. I urge you to read the articles and decide whether test-based certification, and this training, is something you want to pursue.

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